

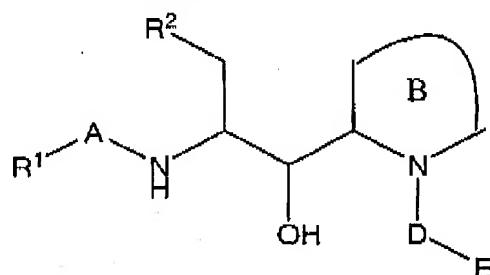
Docket Number: ENP-035

Applicant : Wang et al.
 Serial Number : 10/007,342
 Filed : October 22, 2001
 Page : 2

Amendments to the claims:

Claims 1-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Added) A compound of the formula:

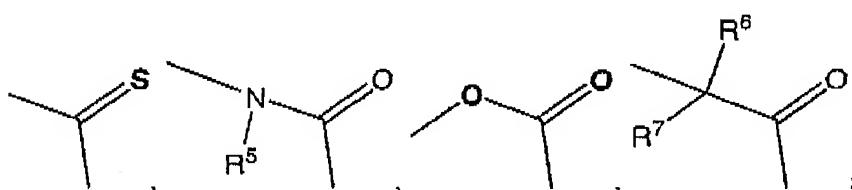


wherein:

R¹ is chosen from the group consisting of C₁-C₂₀ alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, substituted alkylaryl, C₁-C₁₀ alkoxy, C₁-C₁₀ oxaalkyl, aryloxy, substituted aryl, substituted aryloxy, heterocyclyl and heterocyclyloxy;

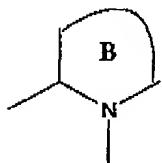
R² is chosen from the group consisting of C₁-C₁₀ hydrocarbon, substituted aryl and heterocyclyl;

A is chosen from the group consisting of a direct bond, -SO₂-, NHSO₂-,



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Page : 3



is thiazolidine;

R^5 , R^6 and R^7 are chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

D is chosen from the group consisting of $-SO_2-$; and

E is chosen from the group consisting of C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon, substituted aryl, heterocyclyl and substituted heterocyclyl.

27. (Previously Added) A compound according to claim 26 wherein E is chosen from aryl, heteroaryl, substituted aryl and substituted heteroaryl.
28. (Cancelled) A method of treating or preventing a protease precipitated disease which comprises administering to a mammal suffering from said disease or at risk to said disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 26.
29. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 28 wherein said disease is HIV, AIDS, or a related condition.
30. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 28 wherein said disease is malaria.
31. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 28 wherein said disease is chosen from connective tissue disease, muscular dystrophy, breast cancer and Alzheimer's disease.
32. (Previously Added) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound according to claim 26, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.
33. (Previously Added) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 32 comprising at least one additional antiviral agent.